

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CA-01 (ISO) W
-----129852 081123Z /21

R 080825Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6055
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 08308

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, TU
SUBJECT: TURKEY AND THE GDR

REF: ANKARA 7986 (NOTAL)

1. TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, NOT VERY
GOOD SINCE THEY WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1974,
HAVE PROBABLY BEEN DAMAGED BY THE RECENT ATTENTION
GIVEN TO HEAD OF ILLEGAL TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY
RESIDENT IN GDR.

2. TURKISH EMBOFF HAS DESCRIBED TURKISH-GDR
RELATIONS AS FACING IMPASSES OVER A NUMBER OF
BILATERAL ISSUES. THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM, FROM
THE TURKISH POINT OF VIEW, CONTINUES TO BE THE TWO
CLANDESTINE RADIO STATIONS LOCATED IN THE GDR:
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"OUR RADIO", BROADCASTING TO TURKEY, AND "VOICE
OF THE TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY," BROADCASTING TO
TURKS LIVING IN WEST GERMANY. ACCORDING TO
TURKEMB SOURCE, THEY MAKE DIRECT OFFENSIVE ATTACKS
AGAINST TURKISH LEADERS. THE GOT HAS
PROTESTED TO THE GDR THROUGH THE GDR AMBASSADOR
IN ANKARA AGAINST THESE BROADCASTS. THE GDR

HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THE STATIONS DO NOT EXIST.

3. A SECOND AREA OF DIFFICULTY FOR THE TURKS IS THE SUPPORT BY THE GDR FOR THE OUTLAWED TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY. ACCORDING TO THE TURKISH EMBASSY, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY, ISMAIL BILEN, AND THE PARTY SECRETARIAT ARE RESIDENT IN DRESDEN BUT COME FREQUENTLY TO EAST BERLIN. THE TURKISH EMBASSY CLAIMS THAT THE LEADERS OF THE PARTY ARE ALL BUT UNKNOWN IN TURKEY.

4. THE PROBLEM OF GDR SUPPORT FOR THE TURKISH COMMUNIST PARTY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS GIVEN BY HONECKER TO BILEN ON OCTOBER 18 AND THE AWARDED OF THE KARL MARX MEDAL TO HIM ON OCTOBER 21 (REFTEL). THE EMBASSY CLAIMED TO BE UNCONCERNED WITH THE FACT THAT THE MEDAL WAS GIVEN, RECOGNIZING THAT HONECKER, AS HEAD OF THE SED, WOULD BE EXPECTED TO MAINTAIN PARTY TIES, BUT HE TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE LANGUAGE USED BY HONECKER IN MAKING THE AWARD. HONECKER NOTED BILEN'S STRUGGLE FOR THE "RIGHT OF NATIONAL AND SOCIAL SELF-DETERMINATION FOR HIS PEOPLE." EMBASSY DOUBTED WHETHER THE TIMING AND TONE OF THE HONECKER STATEMENT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DELIBERATELY INTENDED TO AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS CONSIDERING RATHER THAT IT WAS MERELY CLUMSY.

5. CONSULAR ISSUES CREATE RELATIVELY MINOR, BUT CHRONIC PROBLEMS IN TURKISH-GDR RELATIONS. OVER 100,000 TURKISH WORKERS ARE RESIDENT IN WEST BERLIN, ACCORDING TO TURKISH EMBASSY CALCULATIONS, AND UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 1977 MANY REGULARLY VISITED AND EVEN LIVED IN EAST BERLIN. WITH THE MORE RESTRICTIVE VISA REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE GDR IN JANUARY 1977, THE NUMBER HAS BEEN REDUCED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 3,000 TURKISH-GDR FAMILIES, MANY INVOLVING CHILDREN. THIS RESULTS IN A HEAVY LOAD OF BINATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES.

6. ON THE GDR SIDE THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE GDR ON MOVEMENTS OF GDR DIPLOMATS WITHIN A DEFINED RADIUS OF ANKARA. (THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON TURKISH DIPLOMATS RESIDENT IN THE GDR.)

7. THE GDR HAS PRESSED TURKEY TO CONCLUDE A CONSULAR AGREEMENT, "BRINGING THE SUBJECT UP ON EVERY OCCASION." ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY SOURCE, THE GDR HAS PREDICTABLY INSISTED ON INCLUSION IN THE TREATY A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY. THE GOT HAS REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO AGREE ON THIS AND HAS NO INTEREST IN PURSUING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER DURING THE 1976 UNGA AT WHICH TIME FISCHER WAS INVITED TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT

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TO TURKEY. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY SOURCE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS FOR SUCH A VISIT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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